

To: The Federal Communications Commission
From: Laura Franklin, Director of Communications Paterson Public Schools, NJ
Re: CC Docket No. 02-06
Date: September 8, 2007

The Paterson Public Schools district hereby lends its strong support to the proposed addition of "telephone broadcast messaging" to the list of services eligible for support under the schools and libraries ("E-rate") program.

It is well-documented that improving communications between and among educators, students, and parents can play a vital role in improving educational performance in elementary and secondary schools. Telephone broadcast messaging offers significant advantages and benefits over the less efficient means which schools traditionally used to reach out to students and parents, such as backpack flyers and and or parental "snow chain" messages.

In an urban district like Paterson, telephone broadcast messaging are especially useful to notify and inform parents of student absences, testing schedules and parent/teacher conferences.

A further and significant benefit of telephone broadcast messaging is that it can provide an important emergency response resource in the event of weather-related events, health or other civil emergencies, or other incidents that require schools to lock down or transfer students to safe locations.

In enacting the E-rate program in 1996, Congress recognized that many schools and libraries have limited resources that constrain their access to emerging technologies that can enhance and support their educational mission. Telephone broadcast messaging, which allows schools to more efficiently and effectively communicate with students and parents, is a prime example of such an emerging technology and should be included within the E-rate program's list of eligible services.

Sincerely,

Laura Franklin, Director of Communications
Paterson Public Schools